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## EXPERIENCING NATURE AND SOCIETY. A MULTI-SITED INQUIRY INTO MARINE AND ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD SCIENCES

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

The concept of the field and field research were transferred from the natural sciences to social research at the end of the nineteenth century. However, the respective field conceptions have hardly been studied systematically-comparatively so far, and the integration of the disciplinary ontologies of natural and social research are still rare. The DFG-funded project "Experiencing Nature and Society. A Multi-sited Inquiry into Marine and Ethnographic Field Sciences" will therefore pursue the following questions over the next three years: To what extent can the concept of field be made empirically and theoretically productive as a unifying analytical tool between the natural and social sciences in the Anthropocene? How can the nature/culture dichotomy be overcome in the face of the climate and biodiversity crisis?

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Against this backdrop, the project explores the understanding and practice of ethnographic and marine biology fieldwork as an experimental framework in which nature and society meet.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To gain new, empirically grounded insights into field conceptions in natural anthropology and marine biology (subproject I).
- To systematize current practices in marine research and map different field approaches (subproject II).
- To make these findings productive for the development of collaborative interdisciplinary research formats in the form of a "third knowledge space" (subproject III)

#### CONTACT

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In pursuing these goals, the project develops a conceptual contribution to the heuristics of field science. Furthermore, it establishes an integrative methodology of field research to support project-based collaborations between environment-related natural and social sciences. In this way, it contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Ocean Decade (2021-2030) declared by the United Nations, by initiating transformative solutions for ocean conservation across disciplines and countries.

## METHODS

To achieve these goals, the understanding and practice of fieldwork in different locations (Europe and overseas) will be empirically investigated. The project will focus on a variety of methods:

- Literature and document analyses
- Participant observations, focus group discussions and qualitative interviews at natural anthropological research institutes in France, Germany and other countries
- Participant observations, focus group discussions and qualitative interviews at marine biology research institutes in France, Germany and further countries
- Participatory observations at overseas marine research expeditions
- Interdisciplinary cross-site workshops on research findings
- Joint development of co-laborative formats and initiation of interdisciplinary collaborations in the field of marine research

### FUNDING BODY

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### PROJECT DURATION

04.2022 – 03.2025

### PROJECT LEAD

Dr. habil. Tanja Bogusz

### RESEARCH FELLOW

M.A. Nane Pelke

### PROJECT WEBSITE

[Link](#)

### CONTACT